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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

April 15, 2005

**GREG WALDEN**

2D DISTRICT, OREGON

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Mr. Alton Chavis  
Acting Deputy Chief  
HQ ACC/CEVP  
Environmental Division (A-75)  
129 Andrews Street, Suite 102  
Langley AFB, Virginia 23665-2767

Dear Mr. Chavis:

I am writing to you regarding the Over-The-Horizon Backscatter (OTH-B) Radar Transmitter site located in Christmas Valley, Oregon. Recently, your agency requested input from me regarding the Environmental Assessment (EA) being conducted at this site for the proposed removal of scrap external radar equipment.

Last week, my staff toured the facility and met with local leaders to hear their concerns regarding the future use of the site. High on their list is the possibility of developing renewable alternative energy production at the site.

It is my understanding that the Air Force is pursuing an enhanced use lease for renewable energy production at its other OTH-B site in Maine. However, due to the original land transfer agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) this option was not considered at Christmas Valley and the land stewardship is being returned to the BLM, Lakeview District.

In 2003, the BLM identified the Lakeview planning unit as one of top twenty units in the West with a high potential for the development of three or more renewable energy resources: wind, biomass, and geothermal. Taking into account this favorable ranking, along with the extensive infrastructure already in place at the Christmas Valley OTH-B, I believe that the site merits further study for potential alternative energy production.

I strongly urge you to support any EA alternative that would retain of all remaining energy transmission-specific infrastructure (i.e., access roads, high-energy transmission lines, and support buildings) at the Christmas Valley OTH-B. In addition, I ask that your agency forward any data that has been used to assess site's renewable energy production potential, along with a final recommendation, to the Director of the BLM.

Deputy Chief Alton Chavis  
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As our nation focuses on ways to increase America's energy independence from foreign oil, it is worth taking the time to leave such a valuable infrastructure in place until it can be determined if alternative energy generation potential exists at the site. I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,



GREG WALDEN  
Member of Congress

Cc:  
Director Kathleen Clarke, BLM  
Oregon State Representative George Gilman  
Commissioner Brad Winters, Lake County Oregon